

BAG FORMED BY A SET OF DETACHABLE BAGS

The present invention is a bag formed by a set of multiple detachable bags set in layers, each within the subsequent ones.

The set is designed to be placed in places where grit/dirt is accumulated
5 and/or collected, both in hydraulics plants of buildings, crossover boxes, grease retainer, drains, etc. as well as in isolated places, such as trash cans and temporary toilets.

It is also designed to be placed where products are placed in bags, such as those used for sorting out fruits, vegetables and other products chosen and
10 separated by customers in supermarkets.

Its use starts with the placement of the set wherever desired, followed by the subsequent removal of one bag at a time; the bag removed takes within it whatever users want, and the next bag in the set is instantly prepared for use; this procedure can be repeated until all bags have been used.

15 Present bags found in the market and designed for the same purpose as that of the present invention are sold/supplied in single units or in multiple units, and, when multiple, are rolled up, one over the other, or piled up, also one over the other; this results in bags having to be put in place one by one. For example, patent WO 03/017807 presents a solution in which the plastic bags are laterally
20 overlapped and have holes in their upper part so that they can be easily placed, resulting in better filling.

Some bags are simple and have one opening only in their upper end, which is the case of bags designed to be used in trash cans. Other bags may also have lateral openings, such as the bags mentioned in Letters Patent PI9801250 and
25 C19801250, designed for use in hydraulic plants; both PI and C19801250 are Brazilian and are included in request PCT/BR99/00031.

Presently, what demands more time and poses greater difficulty for users is the placement of bags in containers. Patent US4349123 aims at solving this problem, by introducing a collector with plastic bags overlapped within the
30 container itself.

As to each individual bag, users have to locate and fetch the bag, not only having to take it to its destination, but also to open it and fit it in place.

Sometimes, at first, users are not sure where the openings of bags are located. Other times, although they know where the opening is located, it is difficult for users to initiate the separation of the edges of the bag so as to open it, especially when the bag walls are very pliable and thin, being, for example, 0.02
5 millimeters thick.

Moreover, in other cases, the handling and placement of bags results in air trapped between the walls of the bag and the walls of its container, which hinders the process of placement and accommodation of bags in containers, because, instead of flowing out of the container, the air moves internally, causing the
10 displacement of some parts of the bag towards the opposite of where desired. The same happens whenever the bag walls are pushed towards the walls of their containers, or when the bags are put one within the other in the same container.

The objectives of the present invention are to facilitate the placement of bags and to reduce the amount of time employed by users, resulting in benefits
15 both in terms of lower costs and the less time users spend in uncomfortable body positions.

The solution was to create a bag (1) formed by multiple removable bags (10) (9) (8) (7) (6) (5), each one within the subsequent ones, except for the external one (5), counting with the total or partial, if desired, expulsion of air
20 between the bags and presenting procedures preventive of the attachment between bags in their lower extremities, so that the set, although used from within by means of the periodic removal of its innermost bag, maintains the quality of a single bag until it is used up.

The removal of air between the bags of the set is for the set to have a
25 malleability and rigidity similar to those of a bag as thick as the sum of the thickness of each individual bag of the set. Thus, during its placement in a container, when the walls of the set are pushed towards the container walls, the air will flow out of the container more easily due to the greater resistance.

The prevention of attachment of bags in their lower end is to prevent the
30 bag to be removed from getting stuck on its edges, since, if the walls of the lower end of the bag (3) are excessive in comparison with the shape of the lower end of the container, and excesses (3) of all bags are considered together, depending on

the shape of the bottom of the container, folding may take place in the area of the excesses (3) and hinder the bag's removal. In order to avoid this, the bags are disposed with an alternation of a 90 degree rotation (11), which is an adequate procedure to prevent the formation of excesses (3) in the lower end of the set of bags. Another adequate procedure is the modification of the lower end of the bags before placing them one within the others, in other words, to modify the shape of the lower end, thus eliminating excesses.

The advantages of the present invention, following the order of the technique presented above, are:

- a) The container itself stores the bags; thus, there is no need to look for, fetch, and place each bag at a time;
- b) The next bag to be used is already in place; thus, there is no need to look for the opening (2) of the bag, to open the bag, to place it inside the container, to push the walls of the bag towards the container walls, neither to adjust the upper edge of the bag to the container. Therefore, the difficulties associated to the operations just mentioned cease to exist;
- c) The placement of the set of bags is easier and takes less time than the placement of only one bag at a time; the structure of the set of bags is more resistant to mild pressures, because there is very little air between the bags, which makes it easier to accommodate the walls of the set to the inner walls of the container;
- d) Maintenance time is reduced;
- e) There is a reduction in risks associated with inadequate body positions during longer periods of time.

When one observes the technique presently in use, one notices that, for the places mentioned in the present invention, there are no products available that are composed of multiple integrated bags for internal detachment in the handling steps.

The set (1) without lateral openings is proper for isolated places, such as trash cans. However, when the place is part of hydraulic plants, the set (16) must have one or more lateral-openings (17), which must have impermeable or very little permeable fittings.

That is why technologies presented in publications PI9801250 and C19801250 exist for those cases in which bags with lateral openings are necessary.

5 The product of publications PI9801250 and C19801250 presents the option of placement of multiple bags in the container, what can be done before or after the container is sold, but it does not present the solution of multiple bags previously integrated with the placement in the container.

One problem resulting from the use of existing technologies has to do with the fitting of lateral openings of the set in hydraulic plants, since the thickness of
10 its walls is much greater than the thickness of each bag that comprises it, hindering manual fitting because it demands much physical effort or a fitting done individually per bag.

In order to integrate the present invention with PI9801250 and C19801250 technologies, I created a bushing (14) with two fitting regions: one foreseen in
15 publication C1, and another foreseen in publication PI. One bushing (28) is proper for fitting and sealing between the set and the container, which can serve for the fitting of one (18) bag, resulting in the type of sealing mentioned in C19801250. The other (27) serves for fitting in the respective lateral opening of a set of bags in order to promote sealing when liquids flow from the more central bag to any of
20 the subsequent bags of the set (16), by means of the technique mentioned in PI9801250.

The advantage brought by the creation of the bushing (14) is exactly to enable the integration of previous technologies with that of the bag formed by the removable bags, so as to allow its use in hydraulic plants.

25 A single device, i.e., a bushing (14), intermediates two types of connections: one between the set (16) and the set itself (16), and another between the set (16) and the container.

The figures attached show alternatives to a bag (16) for hydraulic plants and to a bag (1) for isolated containers, as well as details on both.

30 Fig. 1 shows a bag (1) composed of six bags.

Fig. 2 shows an enlargement of part of the edge (4) of the opening (2) of the bag (1) presented in Fig. 1, out of proportion.

Fig. 3 shows the mounting sequence of the bag (1) presented in Fig 1.

Fig. 4 shows a bag (1) with a fold (13) contouring its opening (2).

Fig. 5 shows a bag (16) with two lateral-openings (17).

Fig. 6 shows an enlargement of part of the edge (4) of the opening (2) of
5 the bag (16) presented in Fig. 5, out of proportion.

Fig. 7 shows the view of section AA marked in Fig. 5, in an enlargement out
of proportion.

Fig. 8 shows a frontal view of the bushing (14) presented in Figs. 5 and 7.

Fig. 9 shows the view of section BB marked in Fig. 8.

10 The best way to mount the set is to prepare a support base (12), preferably
in the shape of the interior of the container where the set (1) is to be placed, in
other words, a base with external dimensions similar to the internal dimensions of
the place where the set (1) will be used. The base (12) is positioned upside-down,
and its height is supposed to be greater than the depth of the respective
15 container. The base (12) will serve as a support and will occupy the inner space
of the set (1) so that the air is expelled from the interior of the bag(s) (10) (9) (8)
(7) (6) (5) which will cover it.

After the support base (12) is ready, the next step is to fit the first bag (10)
so that it covers the base (12). Next, considering the hypothesis that there are
20 excesses (3) of the walls of the bag (10) in its lower end, which is a very common
situation, the user is to cover the first bag (10) with the second bag (9), in a
position different from the previous one, so that excesses do not coincide (3), for
example, turning the second bag 90 degrees (11) in relation to the position of the
first bag, before placing one bag over the other. Thus, the fitting of the third bag
25 (8) is done in the same position as the first bag (10), and the fitting of the fourth
bag (7) is done in the same position as the second bag (9), always alternating
positions until all bags are placed and fitted one over the others. Now is the time
to check for air between the bags, and if there is, to expel its. The set is, then,
ready (1). After that, in order for the bags (10) (9) (8) (7) (6) (5) of the set to be
30 more tightly together, the user folds (13) the edge of the opening (2) so as to keep
the openings (2) of all subsequent (9) (8) (7) (6) (5) bags covered externally by
(10) the innermost bag. This fold (13) forces bags to be closer together, limiting

the passage of air between them.

After being removed from the support base (12), the set (1) is ready to be placed in a container without a lateral opening, for example, a trash can, or ready to be folded and packaged for future use or sale. After the set (1) is placed in a trash can, the first bag (10) that was fitted in the support base will be the first bag to be detached from the set (1); the second bag (9) that was fitted in the support base will be the second to be detached, and so forth.

More steps for the setting up of the set will be necessary if the container has lateral-opening(s) (17). In order to prepare each lateral-opening (17) of the set, the user has to make a circular-opening in the set (16), one whose diameter is smaller than the diameter of the corresponding external-fitting-surface (27) of the bushing (14) to be placed.

Before the introduction of the bushing (14) into the circular-opening of the set (16), one needs to make the edge of the circular-opening to work similarly to a rigid flat ring; this can be accomplished by pushing the walls of the bags of the set (16) into a circumference of greater radius than the initial radius of the circular opening mentioned.

The next step is to move onwards an element that penetrates into the circular opening mentioned, following the direction of an axis perpendicular to the rigid flat ring, forcing the walls, generating internal tensions, so that the ring changes from flat to the shape of the base of a cone, i.e., the shape of the element mentioned.

Along with the element mentioned, the bushing (14) is moved so that it penetrates into the same opening, until all the opening is positioned in the external-fitting-surface (27) of the bushing (14); as a result, the opening no longer has the cone-base shape; now it has a cylindrical shape, which is the external shape of the bushing (14) where fitting takes place (27).

Considering the other (28) region of the bushing (14), the internal-fitting-surface (28), I render best the configuration in which more than one (18) bag, exterior to the others (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26), is fitted. In each lateral-opening (17) of this (18) most external bag, the end of the respective bushing (14) is fitted and will serve to connect the set (16) to the container,

allowing for a better sealing in the connection. In order to assure that the bag (18) will not get loose, a ring (15) is placed to fix it in place.

Since sometimes containers have internal parts, for example, a trap connected to the outlet, I find it better the bushing (14) that has, in its end
5 opposite to the insertion in inlet or outlet of container, an internal-diameter (29) that is equal to the internal diameter of the inlet or outlet of the container, so that, for example, the trap may be connected to the bushing instead of to the container.

Certainly, as it is clear for any expert in the field, the ways to represent the invention are not limited to the examples mentioned above and may vary
10 according to the scope of claims attached. The mounting of the set of bags presented herein may be done manually or automatically.